

# PRESS RELEASE

**Congressman John Conyers, Jr.**

**Fourteenth District, Michigan  
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary  
Dean, Congressional Black Caucus**

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## **CONYERS JOINS OTHERS IN FORMING THE BI-PARTISAN CONGRESSIONAL REFUGEE CAUCUS**

Congressman John Conyers, Jr., Ranking Member of the House Judiciary Committee issued the following statement today regarding the United Nation's High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) reception honoring the founding of the Bipartisan Congressional Refugee Caucus:

"For more than 50 years, UNHCR has worked with governments to find durable solutions for refugees around the world. Indeed, UNHCR has twice been honored with a Nobel Peace Prize for its work on behalf of refugees and displaced persons. With 15 million refugees around the world, UNHCR's work is just as important and relevant today as ever.

I am pleased to be joined today by my esteemed colleagues, Representatives Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL), Christopher Smith (R-NJ), and Zoe Lofgren (R-CA) in forming the new Bipartisan Congressional Refugee Caucus. The four of us, who represent different regions, political parties, ideologies, ethnicities, and genders personify the fact that there is broad support in Congress for refugee protection. We hope to use this new Caucus to affirm the United States' leadership and commitment to the protection, humanitarian needs, and compassionate treatment of refugees seeking protection throughout the world.

The United States has had a proud, bipartisan tradition of offering support and assistance to refugees who have fled religious and political persecution in their homelands. By their very definition, refugees face horrific, life-threatening circumstances. The assistance and protection that the United States has provided them over the years has saved countless lives. In turn, the United States, has benefitted greatly from the millions of ways that refugees have contributed to our society and our communities

We formed the Bipartisan Congressional Refugee Caucus to serve as a vehicle to express our support for refugee protection to the Administration, inform our colleagues in Congress about issues of importance to refugees, and to educate the general public about both the plight that refugees face and the urgent need for the United States to provide assistance to them. We trust that UNHCR and all of you hear today will help our efforts and we look forward to working with you on these critical matters."

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